



Avonside Girls' Shirley Boys' **TWO SCHOOLS · ONE CAMPUS**



Media release for immediate use Friday 29 June 2018

New zone announced for Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' High Schools.

The Ministry of Education has approved an enrolment zone for Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' High Schools' new campus at QEII Park.

Construction is progressing rapidly on the new campus which will open for Term Two of 2019. The relocation of the schools created the need to review the enrolment zone.

This process included wide-ranging consultation including public meetings, an online survey, four community meetings (for parents and caregivers) and discussions with contributing primary and intermediate schools.

Avonside Girls' High School Principal Sue Hume says the consultation resulted in a large volume of feedback.

"We were grateful for that. A lot of the feedback came from communities in both schools' existing zones who wanted to ensure they were still able to attend the schools once we move."

Shirley Boys' High School Headmaster John Laurenson says the schools listened to that feedback carefully.

"Our final recommendation to the Ministry of Education was for the new zone to include the area around our new schools, the areas of Brighton and Marshland and for provision to be made so that children living in our current zone could attend the new schools."

The Ministry's response was that the school's recommendation presented a significant risk of sustained overcrowding which, it said, would impact on the delivery of quality education for all students.

It has now approved an amended scheme that will provide for current students, students in the area surrounding the new school and makes provision for those who live in the existing zones.

Both schools have a mixed reaction to the final zone decision.

John Laurenson says the schools are pleased that the Ministry has made provision for their existing zones.

"This is a good news for those communities. It means that as of today's date those living in our current zone will be able to enrol in the new schools."

Sue Hume says the schools are disappointed that the Ministry refused their request to include the Marshland area in the zone.

“We know those living in the area will be disappointed too. The good news is that we will review the schools’ zones again in May 2019, which is the first opportunity we are permitted to under the Education Act,” says John Laurenson.

“At that stage, we will have student data to help address the Ministry’s concerns around overcrowding if Marshland is included,” adds Sue Hume. “It is also important for families who don’t live in the new zone to remember that both schools will be taking a significant number of out of zone students so it is well worth enrolling.”

The new zone boundaries will take effect from 1 January 2019. The official zone description and a map can be found at:

<http://www.newcampus.nz/a/rflAtjf>

For more information contact...

Jo Scott

Great Scott Communications

021 883 123

jo@greatpr.co.nz